

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01
 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 /032 W
 095019 /63
R 221635Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2702
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 12034

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR PE CI
SUBJECT: PERUVIAN NAVY MINISTER'S GOODWILL VISIT TO CHILE

REF: A) LIMA 11322, B) LIMA 11365

1. PERUVIAN JUNTA MEMBER VICE ADMIRAL JORGE PARODI PAID A GOODWILL VISIT TO CHILE DECEMBER 17-21 AT THE INVITATION OF HIS CHILEAN COUNTERPART, ADMIRAL MERINO. PARODI PERSONALLY DELIVERED A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ TO PRESIDENT PINOCHET AND TALKED WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE HERMAN BRADY. MERINO AND PARODI EXCHANGED CUSTOMARY DECORATIONS.

2. WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON INTERNATIONAL PRESS REPORTS OF FRICTION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, PARODI SAID THEY WERE THE COMMENTS OF TROUBLE MAKERS; THERE WAS IN FACT NO RIVALRY BETWEEN PERU AND CHILE. PARODI STRESSED CONTINUED PERUVIAN/CHILEAN FRIENDSHIP AND THE NEED TO INCREASE TIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT PERUVIAN PRIME MINISTER AND ARMY CINC GENERAL GUILLERMO ARBULU WOULD VISIT CHILE, POSSIBLY IN MARCH.

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3. THE VISIT RECEIVED EXTENSIVE AND FAVORABLE MEDIA PLAY, PARTICULARLY IN GO-OWNED "EL CRONISTA."

4. COMMENT: WE SHARE REF A'S ASSESSMENT THAT THIS WAS ANOTHER OF THE LARGELY SYMBOLIC EFFORTS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES TO REDUCE TENSIONS AND POTENTIAL MISUNDER-

STANDINGS. SO FAR WE HAVE FOUND NO INDICATION OF SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS.

5. AT THE PERUVIAN AWARDS CEREMONY THE AMBASSADOR
FOUND THE CLIMATE EXCEPTIONALLY WARM AND CORDIAL. PARODI
APPEARED TO HAVE ACHIEVED EXCELLENT RAPPORT WITH
CHILEAN OFFICIALS, WAS RELAXED, WITTY AND SCINTILLATING.
POPPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR PE CI, MILITARY VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SANTIA12034
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760470-0396
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761220/aaaaarai.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 LIMA 11322, 76 LIMA 11365
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <25 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PERUVIAN NAVY MINISTER'S GOODWILL VISIT TO CHILE
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, PE, CI, (PARODI, JORGE)
To: SECSTATE WASHDC LIMA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006